

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 DPW-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01 IO-03

RSR-01 /059 W

----- 069232

R 160457 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8735

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4318

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE SPOT REPORT: ARVN 23 RD DIV. COMMANDER RESUMES  
CONVERSATIONS WITH NVA/ VC

FOL TEL SENT SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG MAR 15, 1973 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 166

LIMDIS

1. BRIG GEN TRAN VAN CAM, COMMANDER ARVN 23 RD DIV., HAS ONCE  
AGAIN RESPONDED TO LETTER FROM NVA/ VC FORCES IN KONTUM AND  
RESUMED

FACE- TO- FACE MEETINGS BEGUN IN FEBRUARY BUT SUSPENDED AFTER  
PRIME MINISTERIAL ORDER RESCENDING THEM ( SAIGON 3453 AND 3460  
SIT REPS, MRHWW SECTIONS).

2. CAM TOLD KONTUM POLOFF THAT AN OFFICER FROM HIS 53 RD REGT  
MET WITH ENEMY OFFICERS ( WHETHER NVA OR VC NOT SPECIFIED) ON MAR  
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10 OR 11 IN VICINITY NGO TRANG VILLAGE ( ZA 180.978), ABOUT 9 KMS NNW OF KONTUM CITY. DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE. CAM'S REPRESENTATIVE PROPOSED A DEMARCATION LINE NORTH OF NGO TRANG; ENEMY REPS SAID THEY WANTED THE LINE FARTHER SOUTH BUT PROMISED TO REFER BOTH PROPOSALS TO HIGHER HQ. CAM ALSO SAID HE OFFERED TO RETURN THREE NVA PRISONERS ENEMY HAD ASKED FOR IN FEB NEGOTIATIONS IF HE WERE GIVEN 100 ARVN PW'S; OTHER SIDE OFFERED FIVE ARVN FOR THE

THREE NVA. ANOTHER MEETING IS TO BE HELD SOMETIME THIS WEEK.

3. OFFER TO RESUME THESE DISCUSSIONS CAME IN LETTER FROM " KONTUM LIBERATION ARMY" WRITTEN CIRCA MAR 7; CAM SAYS IT WAS ONLY THE LATEST OF SEVERAL RECENT ENEMY OVERTURES, BUT ONLY AFTER RECEIPT OF MAR 3 JGS ORDER AUTHORIZING MR AND DIVISION COMMANDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EXCHANGES DID HE FEEL ABLE TO RESPOND. EVEN SO, CAM TOOK PRECAUTION OF CLEARING HIS ACTION WITH MR 2 COMMANDER BEFORE SENDING A MAJOR TO RECEIVE THE LETTER. (HOW CAM LEARNED OF LETTER'S EXISTENCE WAS NOT SPECIFIED).

4. LETTER, WHICH CAM SHOWED TO POLOFF, PROPOSES AS TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION; SLASHES IN THE NGO TRANG AREA AND MUTUAL OR UNILATERAL PULL-BACK OF FORCES TO AVOID THEM; AGREEMENT ON A DEMARCATION LINE; AND PRISONER EXCHANGES. LETTER ATTRIBUTES THESE PROPOSALS TO CAM'S REPRESENTATIVE AT AN EARLIER MEETING ON FEB 20, ALTHOUGH PROPOSALS MAY WELL HAVE ORIGINATED WITH NVA/ VC IN AREA. LETTER IS POLITE AND REASONABLE IN TONE, IN CONTRAST TO ONE CAM RECEIVED IN MID-FEB WHICH REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED BY HOLDING HIM PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN SAME AREA.

5. POLOFF COMMENTS THAT WHILE LEVEL OF ENEMY ACTIVITY IN 53 RD REGT'S AO CANNOT WITH ANY CERTAINTY BE LINKED TO OCCURRENCE OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS, THERE DOES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN AN INVERSE

RELATIONSHIP. AO WAS EXCEPTIONALLY QUIET DURING FIRST ROUND ( APPROX FEB 1 ST TO 25), HEATED UP SOMEWHAT FOR ROUGHTLY TWO WEEKS AFTER CAM BROKE OFF DIALOGUE, AND HAS AGAIN BECOME VERY QUIET IN WEEK SINCE THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN. POLOFF HAS NO INDICATION THAT NVA 95 B REGT IN CHU PAO PASS SOUTH OF KONTUM CITY HAS RESUMED ITS MID-FEB DIALOGUE WITH OTHER UNITS OF 23 RD DIV OR THAT ANY SUCH EXCHANGES HAVE OCCURRED IN TRUNG NGHIA AREA WEST OF CITY; BOTH THESE AREAS HAVE SEEN MUCH MORE MILITARY ACTION SINCE CEASEFIRE THAN HAVE NGO TRANG AND VICINITY. ENGLE

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UNQUOTE. BUNKER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, PINT  
**To:** BIEN HOA  
CAN THO  
DANANG  
EA  
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